

“How To Be Holy!”
1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Introduction:

1. Last Week, We Looked At God’s Role In Your Spiritual Growth!
- It Is God That Gives The Increase!
2. But This Truth Does Not In Any Way Take Away From Your Own Personal Role & Responsibility For Spiritual Growth!
- There Was Something “Lacking” In Their Faith (3:10) – He Wanted To Address It Even Before He Returned To Them!
- There Does Not Seem To Be A Problem With Their Knowledge!
- But There Does Seem To Be A Problem With Their Application – Putting Into Practice What They Knew!
- Read 4:1-8!
3. The Issue Is About How To Be Holy!
- “Holiness” - Appears In Some Form 4 Times In These 8 Verses!
- This Is An Important Issue For A Believer!
- God Is Holy! God Wants You To Be Holy!
- But How Can You Be Holy?
4. This Is The Main Point Of These Verses!
- Paul Writes: “Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us **how** ye ought to walk and to please God!” (4:1a)
- Literally: “The How!”
- This Is “The How” Of Holiness!
- We Have Already Learned About God’s Role - The “Who” Of Spiritual Growth (“Without Me Ye Can Do Nothing!” - John 15:5) – Now Learn About Your Role - The “How” Of Spiritual Growth & Holiness!
- How Can You Be Holy?

1. *You Must Respond To The Lord’s Commands! (4:1-2)*

- “Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus!”
 - According To These Verses: God’s Commands Still Stand!
 - They Knew What It Took To “Walk And To Please God!”
 - And So Do We! We Read It From His Word! We Hear It From This Pulpit!
 - Knowledge Is Not The Problem! Application Is!
- Respond By Listening To His Commands!
 - Paul Appeals To Them To Listen, Because It Is Important!
 - Listen! Because Of The Importance Of Our Relationship!
 - We Are “Brethren!” We Have The Same Father!
 - Listen! Because Of The Importance Of Our Request!
 - We Are Beseeching (Beg) / Exhorting (Bld) You!
 - This Is A Strong Request / Reason For Action!
 - Listen! Because Of The Importance Of Our Ruler!
 - Not The “Commandments Of Men”!
 - 4:2 - The “Commandments We Gave You By The Lord Jesus!”
 - Listen For Application, Not Just Knowledge!
 - “The How” Of Being Holy!
 - James 1:22 - “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves!”
- Respond By Living Up To His Commands!
 - There Are Some Things That Are Necessary In Your Christian Life – “The How!”
 - How You Should Walk With God!
 - How You Can Please God!

- One Of The Great Privileges Of Christianity!
- Respond By Learning From His Commands!
 - As You Listen To / Live Up To His Commands:
 - You Will Start Growing!
 - You Will “Abound More And More!”
 - God Uses Your Responses To His Commands To Cultivate Spiritual Growth In Your Life!
 - John 15:8 - “Herein Is My Father Glorified, That Ye Bear Much Fruit; So Shall Ye Be My Disciples!”
- God’s Commands Still Stand! And He Commands You To Be Holy!
 - How Are You Responding? This Is How To Be Holy!

2. ***You Must Respond To The Lord’s Will! (4:3-6)***

- 4:3a - “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification!”
 - The Lord’s Will Is For You To Be Made Holy, Like Him!
 - And When You Obey His Commands, You Will Become More & More Holy!
- You Are Sanctified Through Personal Cleansing! 4:3b - “That ye should abstain from fornication!”
 - You Must Comply With The Holy Spirit In Your Sanctification!
 - One Key Area: “Fornication” - Sexual Impurity & Infidelity!
 - Paul Uses This Sin As An Example Of Applying “The How” Of Being Holy To Your Christian Life!
 - You Must “Abstain” From This Sin, But Also Others!
 - Realize Sin’s Target – Your Soul!
 - 1 Peter 2:11 - “Abstain From Fleshly Lusts, Which War Against The Soul!”
 - Do “Whatever It Takes” To Avoid It!
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:22 - “Abstain From All Appearance Of Evil!”
 - This Is Why: Your Standards Are Important! Your Flesh Is Your Own Worst Enemy!
 - Your Choices / Prayer / Accountability Are Also Important!
- You Are Sanctified Through Personal Control! 4:4-5 - “That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; / Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God!”
 - You Need To Learn How To Control Your Own Body (Vessel) & Flesh!
 - A Bridle Works On Animals But Not On Us!
 - “Every One Of You” Must Realize The Importance Of Self-Control!
 - Don’t Let Your Lusts & Passions Rule Over You (“The Lust Of Concupiscence”) / You Rule Over Them (Always Relying On The Power Of God)!
 - Through Morality! “In Sanctification”
 - Where Godliness Is Promoted!
 - Through Modesty! “In Honor”
 - Make Sure You Think About & Do That Which Is Decent & Proper!
 - Philippians 4:8-9 - “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you!”
- You Are Sanctified Through Personal Concern! 4:6 - “That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified!”
 - You Need To Know How To Control Your Conduct Toward Others – Especially Other Christians!
 - Not Just In The Area Of Immorality / But In All Issues!
 - Don’t Step Over One Another!
 - “Go Beyond” - To Ignore / To Brush Them & Their Interests / Needs Aside!
 - Don’t Step On One Another!
 - “Defraud” - To Take Advantage Of!
 - Sin Doesn’t Just Affect You! No Such Thing As A “Secret Sin” - Luke 8:17 - “For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come

abroad!”

- When You Offend Another Christian, You Have Offended God Himself! Zechariah 2:8
- “He Who Toucheth You Toucheth The Apple Of His Eye!”
- The Fear Of God Is Part Of Becoming Holy!
 - Ecclesiastes 12:13 - “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man!”
- The Lord’s Will Is For You To Be Holy – To Be Sanctified!
 - How Are You Responding? This Is How To Be Holy!

3. You Must Respond To The Lord’s Call! (4:7-8)

- God Has Not Called You So That You Would Ignore Him!
- His Call Is For You To Change! 4:7 - “For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness!”
 - When God Calls You, It Is To Change You!
 - From Uncleanness / To Holiness!
 - From Darkness / To Light!
 - 1 Peter 2:9 - “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light!”
 - Are You Changing According To His Call?
- His Call Is For You To Submit! 4:8a - “He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God!”
 - Don’t Despise / Refuse What God Has Provided For Your Sanctification!
 - Don’t Despise Morality & Modesty & Mortification Of Sin! These Are The Means / Tools By Which God Makes You Holy!
 - Submit To His Work Of Sanctifying You!
 - If You Don’t, Your Quarrel Is Not With Man! Your Quarrel Is With God!
 - Are You Submitting To His Call?
- His Call Is For You To Trust! 4:8b - “Who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit!”
 - The Emphasis This Morning Has Been On Your Personal Responsibility To Be Holy!
 - But This Does Not Take Away God’s Role Either!
 - He Is Still The One Who “Giveth The Increase!”
 - It Is A Mysterious Connection!
 - But, The Lord Provides To Us The Gift Of His Holy Spirit!
 - Who “Worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure!” (Philippians 2:13)
 - Respond To God’s Call By Trusting In Him!
- The Lord’s Call Is For You To Be Holy!
 - Are You Changing? Through Submission & Trust?

Conclusion:

1. Holiness Is Important!
 - Because It Is God’s Command / Will / Call To You!
 - Do You See Your Responsibility?
 - Are You Responding?
2. James 1:27 - “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world!”
 - How Many Worldly Spots Are There In Your Life? Your Church?
 - Way Too Many! Plenty Of Room To Grow & Change!
 - Never Forget That These Verses Teach You “How To Be Holy!”

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace